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Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 68/32 entitled "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament", adopted on 5 December 2013, underlined the strong support, expressed at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, held on 26 September 2013, for taking urgent and effective measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

2. The General Assembly called for urgent compliance with the legal obligations and the fulfilment of the commitments undertaken on nuclear disarmament and endorsed the wide support expressed at the high-level meeting for a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons.

3. Furthermore, the General Assembly called for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction.

4. The Secretary-General was requested to seek the views of Member States with regard to achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in particular on the elements of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, and also to transmit the report to the Conference on Disarmament.

5. By a note verbale dated 19 February 2014, Member States were invited to communicate their views on the issues. Furthermore, Member States were invited to provide executive summaries of their contributions for inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General, while their submissions *in extenso* would be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, if so requested by the Member State. The replies received are contained in section II of the present report. Replies received after the deadline will be issued as an addendum to this report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Argentina

[Original: Spanish]
[24 July 2014]

The total elimination of nuclear weapons is an essential component of Argentina's position on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the disarmament agenda in general.

Argentina believes that the total elimination of weapons of mass destruction should be the central priority of the international community. The repercussions of such weapons go beyond the area of disarmament as such, and have grave implications for international peace and security.

The serious events that have taken place recently highlight the momentous humanitarian consequences of one type of such weapons of mass destruction, in addition to their destabilizing effect on international security.

The case of nuclear weapons is perhaps the most serious. Although their use and the threat thereof constitute a crime against humanity and a violation of international law, they have yet to be banned.

There is therefore a need to reflect on the Treaty and its role in the international security framework. Argentina views the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a security treaty.

Within the framework of the Treaty, non-nuclear-weapon States undertook not to acquire or develop such weapons, while nuclear-weapon States undertook to negotiate their elimination. And yet, decades later, the progress made in non-proliferation has yet to be matched in the area of nuclear disarmament.

That situation is particularly serious given that, by failing to fulfil their commitments under the Treaty, the nuclear-weapon States introduced an element of inequity to the balance of security underpinned by the Treaty. In so doing, they provided an argument for those who call into question the credibility of the non-proliferation regime.

Nuclear-weapon States have proved persistent, as have those other States that benefit indirectly from the protection that nuclear weapons supposedly provide. The result can only be to make international peace and security more unbalanced and unstable.

Argentina therefore supports the efforts of the international community to move towards the negotiation of a legally binding universal instrument banning nuclear weapons.

In the same vein, we stand by the international process aimed at drawing attention to the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. Action towards comprehensive and verifiable nuclear disarmament should not be further delayed.

The only guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination.

Brazil

[Original: English]
[6 June 2014]

Brazil is fully committed to nuclear disarmament, as these weapons constitute the most serious threat to humankind and to international peace and security. Brazil regrets that, almost 45 years after the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, commitment by nuclear-weapon States to the disarmament of their nuclear arsenals remains elusive. For Brazil, it is clear that the indefinite extension of the Treaty in 1995 cannot be interpreted as permission for the perpetual possession of nuclear weapons.

Unilateral or bilateral initiatives to reduce nuclear arsenals do not amount to effective nuclear disarmament, for they are not irreversible, verifiable or transparent. The ultimate goal of a world free of nuclear weapons can only be reached by means of a universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory treaty, with realistic but well-defined timelines and benchmarks, negotiated in an institutional multilateral process.

In this regard, Brazil welcomed the holding of the General Assembly's high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament in 2013 and the subsequent adoption of resolution 68/32, whose call for the urgent commencement of negotiations, in the Conference on Disarmament, for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons coincides with Brazil's traditional position on the matter. While Brazil sees the Conference as the appropriate forum for these negotiations because any such efforts must include all States possessing nuclear weapons, we would not object to any negotiating process that could take place within the United Nations framework, such as in the General Assembly.

Brazil believes that a comprehensive nuclear-weapon convention would need to establish clearly defined and time-bound obligations for the prohibition of the development, testing, production, stockpiling, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons. It would not preclude, however, States' inalienable right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. It would, furthermore, require transparency, and especially verification provisions, to assess the compliance with these obligations by States parties. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), according to article III.B.1 of its statute, would have a key role both in achieving and in maintaining a world free of nuclear weapons.

Brazil sees elements contained in the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention, submitted by Costa Rica and Malaysia to the General Assembly in 2007 (A/62/650), as a good basis to begin discussions on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons.

Canada

[Original: English]
[12 June 2014]

Further to the request of the Office for Disarmament Affairs of 19 February 2014 and pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/32 entitled "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament", the views of the Government of Canada are presented below with regard to achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in particular on the elements of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons.

Canada is deeply concerned by the devastating humanitarian consequences of a potential nuclear-weapon detonation. It is this concern that underpins the work that Canada, and the international community, has done and must continue to do to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons in accordance with the goals of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in a way that promotes international stability, and is based on the principle of undiminished security for all.

Canada supported General Assembly resolution 67/39, entitled "High-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament", in which the Assembly called for the convening on 26 September of the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly. Canada actively participated in the meeting, where we were represented by the Honourable Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

Canada voted against General Assembly resolution 68/32 entitled "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament" as

we regretted that the varied proposals made during the 26 September meeting, including those of Canada, were not captured in the resolution, and that only one particular viewpoint appears to have been brought forward.

At the high-level meeting, Minister Yelich outlined Canada's continued support for a pragmatic and progressive step-by-step process for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament that halts the spread of nuclear weapons, draws down existing stockpiles, and irreversibly eliminates them. Three core components of such an approach are a universalized Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons coupled with full compliance with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards and verification to prevent the spread of nuclear-weapon components and technology, a fully in force comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty to verifiably ban all nuclear testing, and a fissile material cut-off treaty to verifiably ban the production of fissile material. Such an approach provides the most practical and feasible path to advance implementation of the commitments enshrined in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

With near-universal membership, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons remains the most viable framework through which to achieve the goal of greater international security. It is vital to recognize the strategic security context and that preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons helps to create a more conducive climate for nuclear disarmament and reduces the risk of the deliberate or accidental use of a weapon. States which possess nuclear weapons will only disarm when they — and those who rely on their nuclear deterrence — feel safer without nuclear weapons than with them.

The achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons will require the negotiation of a universal, verifiable and legally binding comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons. However, the conditions are not yet in place and the necessary consensus does not yet exist to proceed towards the negotiation of such an instrument. Without that, the prospects for progress on a global ban on nuclear weapons are non-existent, and efforts to achieve such a convention would lead to inertia, the unintended consequence of which could be the diversion of efforts and political will from the more pragmatic and achievable steps towards disarmament. We believe the negotiation of a nuclear-weapon convention would be best placed for success as a step taken towards the end of the process seeking to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

Canada is concerned that the aim of the 2018 meeting, which was called for in General Assembly resolution 68/32, is unclear — it can be interpreted as either another high-level meeting on disarmament to ensure a continued profile to the issue, but also as a potential vehicle to negotiate a nuclear-weapon convention. This, in our view, is regrettable as it may undermine the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons at a time when our collective efforts are needed to seek a positive outcome for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and may lay a foundation for an alternative pathway that could damage the Treaty.

While the resolution rightfully calls for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, it points to only one core issue. We share the frustration expressed in resolution 68/32 that the Conference on Disarmament for over 15 years has not been able to adopt or implement a programme of work. We continue to call for the adoption of a comprehensive and

balanced programme of work within the Conference that would allow us to advance the four core issues. Canada believes that the issue most ready for negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament, both in terms of support, existing mandate and previous work, is a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices. Successful negotiation of a treaty would further nuclear disarmament by advancing key criteria for an eventual world free of nuclear weapons, including increased transparency and further developed verification measures. It would also create the conditions for the negotiation of further treaties, including, when conditions are right, a nuclear-weapon convention.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[5 June 2014]

Nuclear disarmament is and must remain the highest priority with regard to disarmament, until the prohibition and total elimination of nuclear weapons are attained.

The historic initial convening of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament on 26 September 2013 marked a concrete step towards the cherished goal of nuclear disarmament. The meeting demonstrated the broad international support for nuclear disarmament as a priority and witnessed a vigorous demand for nuclear-weapon States to fulfil their commitments with regard to nuclear disarmament, cease the modernization of their nuclear arsenals and exclude nuclear weapons from their security strategies and doctrines.

It is necessary to make progress towards negotiation of a legally binding universal instrument prohibiting nuclear weapons. We call for a comprehensive convention on the prohibition of nuclear weapons encompassing the prohibition of the possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use of such weapons, and providing for their destruction.

Pending attainment of the final objective of nuclear disarmament, the nuclear-weapon States must provide unequivocal and legally binding guarantees not to use or threaten to use such weapons.

We add our voice to the call for the convening, no later than 2018, of a high-level United Nations international conference on nuclear disarmament to review progress made in this regard. Cuba will offer its full support for the successful convening of such a conference. We urge all States and the international community to commemorate and promote 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, as declared by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/32.

Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]
[5 May 2014]

Ecuador deems it essential to advocate a world free of nuclear weapons because of the danger and threat posed by those weapons of mass destruction to the survival of all humankind.

The balance that should exist among the three underlying pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, that is, nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, must be defended resolutely.

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones such as that achieved by the Treaty of Tlatelolco, to which Ecuador has already been party for half a century, is a further step towards a world free of those devices.

Disarmament and non-proliferation measures must be incorporated into national legislation. Ecuador has done so and, in that regard, the country has based its action on the mandates established by the Constitution of 2008, which provides for the promotion of peace and universal disarmament in the conduct of international relations. It condemns the development and use of weapons of mass destruction and the imposition of military bases or facilities by certain States on the territory of others. It also prohibits the development, production, stockpiling, import, transport, transfer and use of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, as well as the release of nuclear and toxic waste into national territory.

It is a matter of grave concern that the nuclear Powers have embarked upon the modernization of their nuclear weapons, and the delivery systems and platforms thereof, that the role of nuclear weapons in their military and national security doctrines has not been diminished, and that no measures have been taken to reduce the alert level of nuclear weapons.

Nuclear-weapon States must in all circumstances refrain from the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against any non-nuclear-weapon State by concluding a universal, legally binding instrument on unconditional, non-discriminatory and irrevocable effective security assurances to be provided by nuclear-weapon States to all non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of such weapons.

France

[Original: French]
[30 May 2014]

The position of France remains unchanged from that expressed in the explanation of vote on resolution 68/32 given on 4 November 2013 in the First Committee on behalf of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

As France fully supports the ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons, in accordance with the goals of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, it participated in the high-level meeting held on 26 September 2013.

However, the views that it expressed at that meeting and those of many other States, were not reflected in the wording of resolution 68/32.

France considers that the failure of certain States to comply with their nuclear non-proliferation obligations is the most serious threat to international peace and security. It therefore regrets that the high-level meeting did not address nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in a balanced manner, even though combating proliferation is vital for the security of all, and is one of the prerequisites for a successful step-by-step approach to nuclear disarmament.

Furthermore, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is the cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime and the foundation for international disarmament efforts. France is therefore very concerned at the single, insufficient, incidental and unbalanced reference to the Treaty in the resolution. Similarly, no reference is made to the action plan agreed in 2010, even though it is the best way forward in the area of multilateral nuclear disarmament.

The resolution also calls for negotiations on a new instrument not covered by the 2010 action plan. However, France remains convinced that only a comprehensive, gradual and practical process will deliver real, methodical and steady progress towards disarmament while maintaining global security and stability. There is no other way of achieving a more secure world and working towards a world without nuclear weapons. As a part of this process, States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons have agreed that the next priority multilateral step towards nuclear disarmament is the negotiation of a fissile material cut-off treaty, and rapid entry into force of the comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty.

Given that a review conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is scheduled for 2015, planning a further conference on nuclear disarmament in 2018, as proposed in the resolution, is not consistent with the existing schedule. France is concerned that the commitment of States to securing a successful outcome to the Review Conference might be weakened in such a situation.

Georgia

[Original: English]
[30 May 2014]

Georgia plays an important role in supporting the existing global nuclear security architecture through implementing its components on the national level, providing sufficient commitments to the international legal instruments and, among other actions, joining global initiatives in this field. Georgia has been a party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material since 2007, already ratified the 2005 Amendment to the Convention and therefore fully became a party to this international legal instrument of immense importance. Georgia has been a party to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism since 2010.

Georgia recognizes the necessity to fully implement Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on the prevention of non-State actors from obtaining weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials.

Considering that this resolution serves as a vital component of the international community's instrument in combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, Georgia welcomes the extension of its mandate until 2021, remains committed to its implementation, and continues cooperation with international organizations and regional bodies.

Georgia actively participates in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction.

Georgia has had a quite intensive and successful collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) since becoming a Member State in 1996. Georgia receives assistance in various fields of peaceful use of nuclear energy and contributes to several technical meetings by providing expertise on drafting documents related to the IAEA Security Series.

Georgia expressed its support for the principles of the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its supplementary document on the IAEA Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources in a formal letter to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Georgia made significant efforts aimed at improving its nuclear safety and security. Georgia has ratified the Law on Nuclear and Radiation Safety, which is in line with the international legal documents and recommendations.

Taking into account the geographic location of Georgia, the possibility of attempts to use its territory for illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials still remains. Therefore, one of the top priorities of Georgia is a continuous strengthening of its national nuclear and radioactive security capabilities and deepening of relevant cooperation with partner nations and appropriate international entities.

Indonesia (on behalf of the States members of the Non-Aligned Movement)

[Original: English]
[24 July 2014]

The Non-Aligned Movement stresses that nuclear disarmament continues to be the highest priority, and that the ultimate goal of nuclear disarmament is the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. In this regard, it calls upon all States to continue to accord the highest priority to nuclear disarmament leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time and under strict and effective international control. In the task of achieving the goals of nuclear disarmament, all the nuclear-weapon States, in particular those which possess the largest nuclear arsenals, bear a special responsibility. In this context, the Non-Aligned Movement calls upon the five nuclear-weapon States to:

(a) Fully comply with their overdue obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

(b) Not to transfer to any recipient nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or explosive devices; and not to

encourage or induce any non-nuclear-weapon State to manufacture or acquire them or control over them;

(c) Cease any efforts to upgrade nuclear weapons or carry out research on, and develop, new types of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and their means of delivery;

(d) Exclude the role of any types of nuclear weapons in their security strategies and those of their allies;

(e) Reduce immediately the operational status of nuclear weapons, including through complete detargeting and de-alerting;

(f) Reduce substantively all types of nuclear weapons, pending their total elimination;

(g) Apply the principles of irreversibility, transparency and verifiability in nuclear disarmament;

(h) Provide effective, unconditional, non-discriminatory, irrevocable and legally binding security assurances to all non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances;

(i) Not to conduct any nuclear-weapon test explosions, and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to facilitate its early entry into force.

(j) Bring into effect, immediately and unconditionally, the security assurances provided by the nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties;

The Non-Aligned Movement calls upon the non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to fully implement the resolution and decisions adopted at the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Review Conferences.

The Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms the long-standing strong global support for the speedy establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East as a matter of priority and, pending its establishment, demands that Israel renounce possession of nuclear weapons and accede, without any precondition and further delay, as a non-nuclear-weapon State to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The Non-Aligned Movement calls for practical steps to the convening of the conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, without any further delay.

The Non-Aligned Movement urges the Conference on Disarmament to agree as soon as possible on a balanced and comprehensive programme of work in order for it to start substantive work.

The Non-Aligned Movement calls for the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/32 entitled "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament".

The Non-Aligned Movement calls for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession,

development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use, and to provide for their destruction.

The above principles and recommendation should constitute some of the possible elements of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons.

The following are suggested, inter alia, to be included in the text of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons:

- Principles and objectives of the convention
- The scope of the convention
- Definitions
- Measures (obligations) towards nuclear disarmament with a time frame
- Verification: system and organ
- Measures to ensure full compliance with its provisions
- Establishment of a periodic review process with regard to the implementation of the Convention
- Settlement of disputes
- Final provisions

Iraq

[Original: Arabic]
[19 March 2014]

Iraq considers that nuclear disarmament should be at the forefront of the priorities of the international community, so that we and the generations to come can enjoy an ideal security environment and realize international peace and security in a world free of nuclear weapons. Nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons are fundamental in order to avert the danger of nuclear war. The continued use of nuclear weapons represents a grave threat to humanity and all forms of life on Earth, and could lead to a nuclear disaster.

Like other members of the international community, Iraq affirms its strong support for swift and effective measures for the complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons. Iraq calls for prompt negotiations within the Conference on Disarmament for the drafting of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, including a ban on the acquisition, development, production, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons and providing for their destruction.

Iraq supports the convening of a high-level United Nations conference on nuclear disarmament no later than 2018 in order to review the progress made.

Iraq calls on nuclear-weapon States to fulfil their nuclear disarmament commitments and promote mutual commitments in accordance with the principles and components of the non-proliferation regime, especially the commitments of nuclear-weapon States under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In particular, good faith negotiations should take place in order to

adopt effective measures to bring an end to the arms race at an early date and achieve nuclear disarmament.

States should accede to international conventions on weapons of mass destruction, implement their provisions without distinction and comprehensively eliminate such weapons. Those fundamental principles can give the international community a genuine guarantee of international peace and security. A legally binding international instrument should be concluded with a view to providing non-nuclear-weapon States with unconditional assurances that nuclear-weapon States shall not use or threaten to use such weapons against them. Iraq believes that a comprehensive and integrated approach should be adopted, combining the universalization of the Treaty, the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and negotiations towards a treaty banning the production of fissile materials and providing for the destruction of stockpiles.

Iraq fully supports international efforts to establish additional zones free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction around the world. Such action is a significant step in the right direction, as it will help to rid the world, particularly the Middle East, of those weapons. Iraq reiterates its complete determination to fulfil its obligations under the international instruments on the elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[7 May 2014]

The Ministry of Defence submits that Lebanon affirms the following:

- The Lebanese Army does not possess or produce weapons of mass destruction. It is firmly opposed to any threat or, a fortiori, use of such weapons.
- We unreservedly support and welcome any initiative aimed at the general and complete elimination of such weapons, particularly in the Middle East region.
- We emphasize the need to rid the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction. In that regard, we are gravely concerned that the Israeli enemy has failed to comply with the authoritative international resolutions, having maintained a nuclear arsenal that poses an ongoing threat to all States of the region, and hence to international peace and security.
- The threats posed by the Israeli nuclear arsenal and weapons of mass destruction can be averted only by working towards the complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East region. The international and Arab communities must place pressure on the Israeli enemy to sign all treaties aimed at preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and nuclear weapons.

Lastly, we stress that the international community, under the leadership of the United Nations, should work to ensure that the concerned parties acquire technical expertise, that the equipment necessary for protection from weapons of mass destruction is made available, and that the concerned parties have the capacity to monitor the international instruments on the elimination of such weapons. Action should be taken to promote the use of nuclear technology for peaceful and scientific

purposes, particularly the pursuit of sustainable development, in view of the varied needs of the developed and developing countries.

Libya

[Original: Arabic]
[15 April 2014]

- Libya affirms that the practical measures taken by the United States of America and the Russian Federation to reduce their nuclear arsenals constitute a positive development. However, they are not sufficient, do not reflect a full commitment to eliminating nuclear weapons, and do not encourage the other nuclear-weapon States to enact similar measures.
- The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones will not be sufficient so long as there are nuclear weapons in other zones in the world.
- Libya supports the conclusions of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to nuclear disarmament, which affirmed that the urgent implementation of effective measures to achieve nuclear disarmament was a matter of the utmost priority.
- Nuclear-weapon States must play the leading role in, and bear primary responsibility for, the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. They must take effective and practical steps to assure the international community that they are committed to eliminating nuclear weapons and preventing their proliferation.
- A legally binding international instrument prohibiting the threat or use of nuclear weapons is required in order to safeguard non-nuclear-weapon States against the threat of nuclear weapons.

Libya proposes that a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons should:

1. Prohibit the production, development, testing and stockpiling of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery;

2. Prohibit the production and stockpiling of fissile material and other components involved in the manufacture of nuclear weapons;

3. Provide for the nuclear facilities of all States, without exception, to be subject to inspections and verification by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);

4. Provide for all States, without exception and under the same terms, to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements and sign additional protocols thereto;

5. Provide for implementation of article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons with a view to adopting a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons;

6. Provide for nuclear-weapon States to declare transparent and internationally verifiable information on their nuclear arsenals;

7. Underscore that IAEA is the sole international organization responsible for inspections and verifying declarations of States with regard to their nuclear programmes;

8. Underscore that all States have the right to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and that developed countries must refrain from impeding the transfer of technology and information on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, provided that the State concerned has concluded an IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreement and additional protocol, has acceded to the relevant instruments on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and pledges to refrain from diverting nuclear energy for military purposes.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[5 June 2014]

Being committed to disarmament, non-proliferation and international peace and security, Mexico will continue to be proactive and forthcoming in encouraging initiatives in multilateral forums to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons.

Mexico believes that the only guarantee against the use and effects of such weapons is to eliminate them completely, as something that does not exist, cannot proliferate or be deployed. Past experience has shown that successfully eliminated weapons had first been banned.

In the context of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Mexico had joined the other members of the New Agenda Coalition in presenting options for the form and content of the instrument which would free the world of nuclear weapons:

- A nuclear weapons convention;
- A nuclear-weapon ban treaty;
- A framework arrangement;
- A hybrid arrangement.

Mexico further considers that any overall agreement on nuclear weapons must include the following elements:

- A clearly stated scope, banning and completely eliminating all types of nuclear weapons. In that connection, the content of the Treaty of Tlatelolco could be used.
- Definitions, with the basis for negotiation being the definitions used by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and those used in the Treaty of Tlatelolco, particularly the definition of "nuclear weapon". The ban should apply to the development, production, acquisition, possession, stockpiling, retention, testing, use and/or transfer of such weapons, in any circumstances and at any time in the future.
- Clearly established, genuine deadlines for the destruction of all nuclear weapons, with no extensions enabling indefinite postponement of destruction.
- Nuclear weapons must be banned and eliminated in a manner that is irreversible.

- Verification must be provided for through an agency of modest scale dedicated to that task, with the support of IAEA, that establishes measures to build confidence between States.
- The agreement must be of indefinite duration.
- The agreement should be signed and ratified and enter into force on the simple basis of the number of States, with no restrictive clauses, along the lines of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.
- The agreement should be universal and open to all States, whether or not they are States Members of the United Nations.

Netherlands

[Original: English]
[29 May 2014]

1. At its sixty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/32, entitled "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament".

2. The Kingdom of the Netherlands herewith submits, in line with operative paragraph 5 of resolution 68/32, the view of the Government of the Netherlands on the issues covered by that resolution.

3. The Netherlands wishes to emphasize that it fully shares the ultimate goal of resolution 68/32, a world free of nuclear weapons. The Netherlands participated at ministerial level in the high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament on 26 September 2013.

4. The Netherlands notes, with regret, that resolution 68/32 reflects only one particular viewpoint, while various other proposals made during the 26 September 2013 meeting were not captured by it.

5. As stated in the explanation of vote that was read by the delegation of the Netherlands at the 24th meeting of the First Committee on behalf of 21 countries, the resolution includes only limited references to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, while the Netherlands would have very much preferred a broader reference to the Treaty and an underlining of its pivotal importance to nuclear disarmament.

6. The Netherlands also stands by its questions raised on the international conference to be held in 2018. The Netherlands feels that the importance of international efforts on nuclear disarmament is insufficiently emphasized by processes that are, in scope and intention, insufficiently clear and transparent. This will prevent key States from participating and is detrimental to the international trust on which successful disarmament is based. It might also undermine the collective efforts in the framework of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

7. The Netherlands further regrets that, by focusing on one core element of the work of the Conference on Disarmament, the resolution does not do justice to the urgent attention that needs to be paid to the adoption of a comprehensive and balanced programme of work of the Conference on Disarmament and the other core

issues. The Netherlands also believes that starting negotiations on a nuclear-weapon convention without the participation of the States that possess nuclear weapons will not advance the overall goal of nuclear disarmament.

8. The Netherlands also maintains that it sees no added value for the United Nations or the furthering of the cause of nuclear disarmament by declaring another International Day, especially when existing ones are disregarded.

Switzerland

[Original: English]
[3 June 2014]

The high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament on 26 September 2013 reflected the concerns at the threat posed to humanity by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and their potential use as well as at the lack of significant progress on nuclear disarmament.

The participation of many world leaders, as well as of representatives of international organizations and civil society, was an expression of the determination to make progress on nuclear disarmament.

Switzerland's understanding, based on the high-level meeting as well as the Summary by the President of the General Assembly (A/68/563), is that while there is overwhelming support for more systematic efforts in disarmament and non-proliferation, the manner and timeline to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons requires further in-depth discussion.

Stepping up such efforts is in full conformity with existing obligations, in particular with the action plan on nuclear disarmament contained in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which indicates that "all States need to make special efforts to establish the necessary framework to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons".

Switzerland is of the view that the different options should now be explored in a systematic manner, in view of uniting the entire membership of the United Nations — States possessing nuclear weapons and non-nuclear-weapon States — in pursuit of the shared goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

A comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons is only one of several options the international community can consider. Other approaches include the so-called "step-by-step" approach, a ban on use, a nuclear-weapon-ban treaty, a framework of separate, mutually reinforcing instruments (as contained in the five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament of the Secretary-General of the United Nations) or a hybrid arrangement.

It is our view that when considering a legal framework for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons, none of the options mentioned above should a priori be excluded, and that all options can be designed to complement and strengthen existing instruments and efforts.

In this regard, Switzerland remains concerned at the continued stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament as well as in the Disarmament Commission and hopes

that efforts to revitalize the disarmament machinery, as called for by the General Assembly in resolution 66/66, will bear fruit.

Switzerland is convinced that discussing the various aforementioned options for achieving a world without nuclear weapons in an open and inclusive manner, and taking into account the relationship between non-proliferation and disarmament, can provide a substantive contribution to the follow-up to the high-level meeting.

Ukraine

[Original: Russian]
[30 May 2014]

Ukraine has consistently upheld the need to conclude a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction.

At the same time, given its non-nuclear, non-aligned status, Ukraine finds it necessary to remind the States signatories to the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Budapest Memorandum of 1994) of the political commitments made to Ukraine to address a threat to its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In this connection, Ukraine calls attention to the need to include in a universal instrument legally binding provisions guaranteeing the security of non-nuclear States and safeguarding their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

With the approach of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September 2014, Ukraine will take steps to further promote joint efforts for the total elimination of this type of weapon.

United States of America

[Original: English]
[3 June 2014]

The United States participated in the 26 September 2013 high-level meeting related to nuclear disarmament. General Assembly resolution 68/32, which followed up on the high-level meeting, does not reflect United States views expressed during the high-level meeting, nor in our opinion, the views of other States that participated.

In the view of the United States, the "step-by-step" approach to nuclear disarmament is the only practical and realistic path to a world without nuclear weapons. We are pursuing such steps through treaties, cooperative measures and national actions. Each step taken builds on the accomplishments and momentum of preceding steps, and takes into account changes in the international security environment.

It is the United States' deep understanding of the consequences of nuclear weapons use that has guided and motivated our efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate nuclear weapons.

In a comprehensive report (https://unoda-web.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/US-Report-2014-May1.pdf) to the third Preparatory Committee meeting for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the United States highlighted the significant progress it is making to reduce the number and role of nuclear weapons and to ensure compliance with the Treaty's non-proliferation goals. As a transparency step, the United States also released a newly declassified nuclear-weapon stockpile fact sheet (www.state.gov/t/avc/rls/225343.htm), which notes that the United States has dismantled more than 1,200 nuclear weapons since 2009. In a high point of the Preparatory Committee, the United States and the other nuclear-weapon States (China, France, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom), signed the Protocol (http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2014/05/225681.htm) to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia. The Protocol, once in force, provides legal assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons to the five Central Asian States.

Regarding the planned 2018 conference established by the General Assembly in resolution 68/32, we strongly believe that the holding of additional nuclear disarmament conferences will not result in an acceleration of the practical steps necessary for the elimination of nuclear weapons. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the 2010 action plan already provide the necessary context and objectives for the next steps on disarmament and achieving a nuclear-free world.

Uruguay

[Original: Spanish]
[30 April 2014]

Since the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, there have been successive attempts in a number of multilateral forums to establish a comprehensive, global convention related to the universal objective of achieving a "world free of nuclear weapons". To date, however, those efforts have been unable to move beyond the impasse that has characterized the disarmament and arms control process as a whole. In this regard, the Model Convention submitted in 2007 to the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons could provide impetus for such negotiations.

Under the present international circumstances (including, for example, the gradual decrease in the number of nuclear warheads), the negotiation of a comprehensive convention on the total elimination of nuclear weapons seems politically feasible.

With regard to the elements to be included in the convention, and without prejudice to a more thorough examination of how it should be structured and implemented, the main focus should be on the verifiability of the convention. Its effectiveness would depend on a sound verification system with sufficiently reliable measures for the detection of prohibited activities involving nuclear weapons. On the one hand, the verification system should generate the necessary confidence that the elimination of all nuclear weapons would be complete and irreversible, while on the other, it should reduce any residual doubts concerning non-compliance to a

tolerable level. Ultimately, the core strength of the verification system should be based on the belief on the part of all States that participation in such a system would provide a better guarantee of security than the nuclear option.

Accordingly, provisions pertaining both to the monitoring and control of nuclear facility complexes and fissile materials would be of particular importance. Consolidating the trend towards complete nuclear disarmament would not eliminate all risks, as the existence of a few hidden nuclear weapons could prove lethal to the military-strategic balance. For that reason, the effectiveness of the aforesaid convention is subject to the effectiveness of its verification mechanisms, insofar as they would ensure not only the elimination of nuclear arsenals, warheads and existing fissile materials, but also the prevention of future acquisition or production of such materials. In that respect, clandestine activities involving nuclear weapons should be detected as early as possible.